

Mecklenburg Profile



TOM FRANKLIN/Staff

Therman Gibbons

Activity: Gibbons coordinates transportation for cancer therapy patients to hospitals for the American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery Program. Gibbons says, "About 15 years ago, multiple sclerosis started coming on slow. I first went to Duke Medical Center, then to the Mayo Clinic, then Germany. There is not much they can do for MS. I started walking slowly and then with a cane. About four years ago, I went to the wheelchair. I just learned to live with it the best I could." Gibbons also has leukemia, which is in remission.

Occupation: Retired as owner of Athletic Footwear Inc. in Charlotte.

Background: Gibbons was born in Columbia in 1932. He moved to Charlotte 30 years ago.

Family: Married to Mary Gibbons. They have a daughter, Anne Ray, and three sons, Terry, David and Tom.

Best aspect of volunteer post:

"Thinking that you help someone who needs it. I hate to do useless things.

These people really need help."

Hardest aspect of volunteer

post: "Sometimes I worry a lot — like when I need to get someone to the hospital and all the volunteers are busy. Maybe I worry more than I should. We always seem to pull through. It's the drivers that make it work."

Hobbies: "I used to enjoy playing golf," says Gibbons. He now coaches Little League baseball and track, is a scoutmaster and enjoys playing bridge.

Compiled By SAM HASSELL